



January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft, US Department of Justice,
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am in full support of the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. This settlement has a fair and reasonable design. It is sad to have to see a suit brought about against Microsoft. If Microsoft were to be broken up, not only would that action harm my business, but also several other businesses across the country

Microsoft operations and products, among other things, constitute a large part of the economy. As such, the antitrust suit has been a major contributing factor in the faltering economy, and to the present stagnated state of the IT industry. It is necessary to prevent this from continuing; any further time spent dealing with this suit will only cause taxpayers to reach deeper into their pockets. Under the settlement, other software companies will be able to sue Microsoft directly in federal court, so that we can at least keep the taxpayers from bankrolling these proceedings. That is in the public interest. Microsoft will change its licensing agreements for hardware makers, and update Windows to accommodate non-Microsoft software more efficiently; that is also in the public interest.

It is time to put this issue behind us and move on to other things. We cannot go on spending our financial resources on this suit any longer. All action taking place at the federal level must be stopped, and the settlement finalized.

Sincerely,

Kent North
President